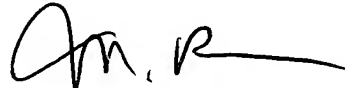


REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, the Abstract and specification are replaced with an amended Abstract and substitute specification, and claims 1-17 are amended.

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Michael Britton
Registration No. 47,260

JAO:MQB/ale

Attachments:

Amended Abstract
Substitute Specification
Marked-up Copy of Specification

Date: May 18, 2004

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